

Claims 2 and 5–7 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and incorporate each and every element therein. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the anticipation rejection of these claims be withdrawn for at least the same reason discussed above.

New Claims

As discussed above, Applicant has added new claims 19–33. Claims 19–21 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1. Applicant submits that these new claims do not introduce new matter as they are fully supported by the specification and drawings of the subject application. Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 19–21 are patentable in light of the prior art of record.

Claims 22–27 are directed to a tube retaining assembly including a tube having “a rolled groove formed in the external surface that defines a reduced external diameter portion and a corresponding reduced internal diameter portion.” Support for this element may be found in Figures 6a, 7, and 9, and paragraphs [0034], [0037], and [0040]. No new matter has been added. The prior art of record fails to disclose this element. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 22–27 are patentable over the prior art of record.

Claims 28–33 are directed to a tube retainer assembly including “a hollow tube having a rolled retention groove and a rolled sealing groove, each of the rolled retention groove and rolled sealing groove defining a reduced diameter portion of an internal surface of the hollow tube.” Support for this element may be found in Figures 6a, 7, and 9, and paragraphs [0034], [0037], and [0040]. No new matter has been added. The prior art of record fails to disclose this element. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 28–33 are patentable over the prior art of record.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above and the amendments presented herein, it is believed that claims 1, 2, 5–7 and 19–33 are in condition for allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner thinks a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below.

If additional fees are due in connection with this Amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. **02-2051**, specifically identifying Docket No. **29793-1**.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 16, 2011

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